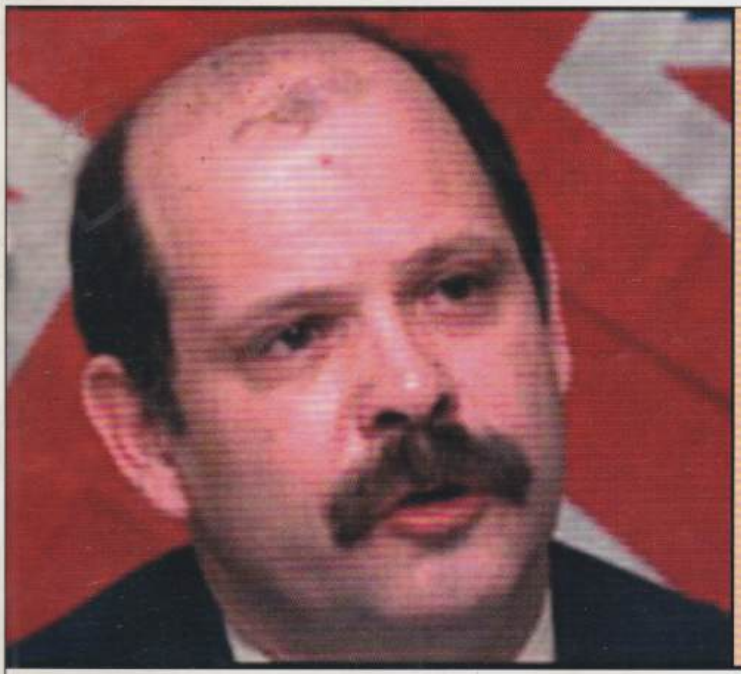
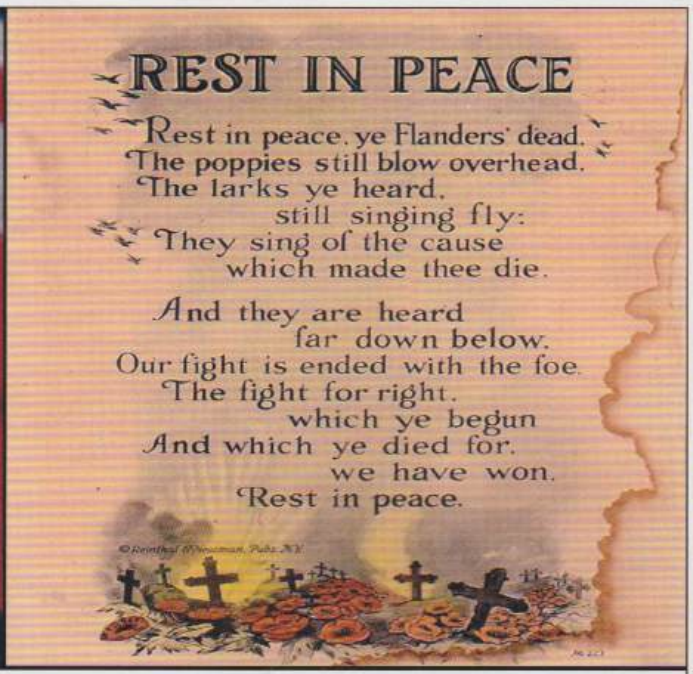
COMBAT

ISSUE 40 'TRUTH, HONESTY AND LOYALTY' £2.00




REST IN PEACE
Rest in peace, ye Flanders' dead.
The poppies still blow overhead.
The larks ye heard,
still singing fly:
They sing of the cause
which made thee die.
And they are heard
far down below.
Our fight is ended with the foe.
The fight for right,
which ye begun
And which ye died for,
we have won.
Rest in peace.

In Memory Of An Esteemed Friend And Comrade ~ Volunteer David Erbine ~ 1953 ~ 2007

'We Will Remember Him'

The 95th Anniversary Of The Ulster Volunteer Force

The year 2007 marks the 95th Anniversary of the formation of the Ulster Volunteer Force.

The UVF has fought gallantly in many conflicts throughout the decades and in turn, many young Volunteers gave their all on the field of battle (and not forgetting of course, in prison camps scattered across the UK and Europe), for the Cause of freedom.

As with every army, the UVF has had its highs and lows. It has seen glory days and it has weathered disasters.

Overall though, the old adage of 'Truth, Honesty and Loyalty' has prevailed, as Ulster's Volunteers time and time again, rose to gallantly repel our people's enemies for 'Crown and Country' and 'For God And Ulster', on both international and local stages.

The role of the Ulster Volunteer Force has somewhat changed over the past decade, as slowly but surely, a process of building peace and trust between the warring people of Ulster / Ireland, has steadily (though sometimes tentatively), progressed.

Today, many UVF Volunteers find themselves heavily embroiled in community orientated projects, were once their focus was military based. This fact alone demonstrates that as an Organisation of the people, the UVF's sole agenda has been and always will be, community wellbeing and not, as the spin-doctors and sceptics might suggest, greed and warmongering!

This change of tactics for the UVF however, does not mean that the Organisation has not taken into account the possibility of a resurgence of sectarian violence in Ulster, be it from mainstream Republicans or dissidents.

As Sinn Fein / IRA water down their hard-line approach and seemingly move forward, (embracing the PSNI etc), the onus is now wholly upon them to persuade their erstwhile comrades to surrender their futile violent efforts to force the Protestants of Ulster into submission.

Republican dissidents must remember ~ violence failed to work for the mainstream and it will undoubtedly fail to work for them!

So 'bravo' to the Ulster Volunteers on their 95th Anniversary, you have served your people well ~ we salute you!

'FOR GOD AND ULSTER'

COMBAT MAGAZINE ~ TRUTH, HONESTY AND LOYALTY

Front Cover ~ Tribute To Volunteer David Ervine.
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Page Five ~ Ulster Volunteer Force Memorial, Regimental Band's Association.
Page Six ~ The O'Loan Report And Raymond McCord.
Page Seven ~ The O'Loan Report And Raymond McCord (continued).
Page Eight ~ A Community United.
Page Nine ~ A Community United (continued). / More Community Concerns ~ 'some people never learn'.
Centre Spread ~ 'Peace And Dignity' ~ In Memory Of Volunteer David Ervine.
Page Twelve ~ Personal Tributes To Volunteer David Ervine.
Page Thirteen ~ 'Let's Finish The Job', The Final Political Statement Of Volunteer David Ervine.
Page Fourteen ~ Lambegs On The Shankill.
Page Fifteen ~Lambegs On The Shankill (continued).
Page Sixteen ~ Sinn Fein And The Policing Debate.
Page Seventeen ~ Sinn Fein And The Policing Debate (continued). 'Treasured Memories'.
Page Eighteen ~ New Loyalist Merchandise For Sale ~ 'Six Of The Best' and 'Newtownards Volunteer Flute'.
Page Nineteen ~ L.P.W.W.A. Ballot Results / The GAA, Sinn Fein And The IRA 'Ourselves Together'.
Page Twenty ~ The People's Page.

'THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO PURCHASE COMBAT MAGAZINE'

ORANGE LODGE SEEKS BAND FOR TWELFTH OF JULY DEMONSTRATION

***

EAST ANTRIM ULSTER VOLUNTEERS
'LOL 1101'
(RATHCOOLE)

Local or Mainland bands are welcome to join with us on this Glorious Day.
The parade route will encompass the Rathcoole Estate and without doubt, is sure to be a memorable occasion.
Any band wishing to fulfil this engagement, should contact COMBAT MAGAZINE, via the supplied address / telephone number.

***

'FOR GOD AND ULSTER'

We remind our readers, that as a direct result of inflated production costs, we have deemed it necessary to raise the cost of COMBAT MAGAZINE to £2.00 per issue.
The Journal has maintained a steady price for many years now and although it is indeed regrettable to implement this change in price, it is however, essential, in order to continue with the quality product that our readers have come to expect.
Subscription to COMBAT MAGAZINE (including P&P), is now amended to £20 per annum.
We trust that these changes will not result in any major difficulties for all concerned.

As ever, myself and my Staff wish you well.
The Editor.
'FOR GOD AND ULSTER'

Combat Magazine exists to reflect a cross-section of contemporary Loyalist opinion.
Articles submitted, will be printed according to merit and content, in relation to current affairs.
The Editor reserves the right to either applaud or castigate, any personality in a totally impartial manner, unless specifically stated to the contrary.
The views expressed in any signed statements, letters or articles, are the sole responsibility of their authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editorial Staff.
The publication of an article or advertisement in COMBAT, is not necessarily indicative that the Editor has any knowledge of, interest in or support for, the product, service, Organisation or function advertised.
All articles, statements or letters forwarded for publication, must be accompanied by the name and address of the author, (not necessarily for publication), in order that their contents may be authenticated.

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COMBAT MAGAZINE OBJECTIVELY REPORTS ON LOCAL ISSUES RELATING TO LOYALISM.
WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO KEEP THE PEOPLE OF ULSTER AND BEYOND, INFORMED AS TO THE TRUTH BEHIND CURRENT EVENTS IN THIS PROVINCE. FOR THIS POLICY WE MAY MAKE ENEMIES. FOR THIS POLICY WE MAY RECEIVE CRITICISM. THOSE WHO WORK FOR TRUTH AND THE WELL-BEING OF THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE, HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR FROM THIS PUBLICATION.

'FOR GOD AND ULSTER'

The Battalion Of The Dead

IN MEMORY OF VOLUNTEER BILL CAMPBELL
10th Anniversary ~ 8th January 1997

Treasured memories of a much loved uncle,
friend and confidant, Volunteer Bill Campbell.
***
Will always be remembered with pride by
his still sorrowing niece Deborah.

FOR GOD AND ULSTER

VOLUNTEER BILL CAMPBELL,
DIED 8th JANUARY 1997
He will forever remain in the thoughts and hearts of
'Croak and the lads, 'B' Company, Cambuslang.
'RESTING WHERE NO SHADOWS FALL'

The Commanding Officer and Volunteers of 1st Belfast Battalion,
'A' Company, No.1 Platoon, Ulster Volunteer Force,
Remember with pride, the times shared with our dearly departed
friend and Comrade, Volunteer Joey Croft. Died 19th January 2006
'Here Lies A Soldier'
***
In Eternal Memory of Volunteer Joey Croft
1st Belfast Battalion, 'A' Company, No. 1 Platoon
Always remembered by his friends and Comrades in Scotland
'At The Going Down Of The Sun'

In Memory Of A Dear Friend And Comrade, Stephen McCrae.
Murdered By The Enemies Of Ulster ~ 18th February 1989.
Eternally remembered by his friend and Comrade,
Neil Colwell
'FOR GOD AND ULSTER'

MID-ULSTER BRIGADE ~ ULSTER VOLUNTEER FORCE

Treasured memories of a dear departed friend and Comrade,
Volunteer Richard Jameson,
Murdered by criminals, 10th January 2000

'Gently drape, the Red Hand round his shoulder.
Pin no heroes medals on his chest'

In Memory Of Volunteer Denver Smith,
North Antrim Brigade, Ulster Volunteer Force

The Officers and Volunteers Of North Antrim Brigade,
Ulster Volunteer Force,
Remember with honour the memory of our dearly departed
friend and Comrade, Volunteer Denver Smith. ('Big D'),
Murdered by drug dealers, 1st January 2000
'We Will Remember Him'

The Officers and Volunteers of South Antrim Battalion,
Ulster Volunteer Force,
Ballymena Company, Ballymoney Company, Coleraine Company,
Londonderry Company and Limavady Company.
Salute the memory of Volunteer Denver Smith ('Big D'),
Murdered by scum, 1st January 2000
'For God And Ulster'

The Officers and Members of South Antrim
Progressive Unionist Party,
Remember with pride the memory of our good friend,
Volunteer Denver Smith ('Big D'),
Murdered by criminal drug dealers, 1st January 2000.
'At The Going Down Of The Sun'

In Eternal Tribute To A Dear Friend, A True Loyalist
and a Trusted Comrade, Volunteer Denver Smith ('Big D'),
Taken from us on 1st January 2000, by criminals.
'Always In My Thoughts'
Ken

A Memorial Parade in honour of Volunteer Denver Smith, will be hosted in Antrim Town on 31st March 2007.

The event will follow its traditional route through the town centre and make its way to Volunteer Smith's Mural in Steeple Estate, where a short ceremony will be conducted.

All True Loyalists are welcome to attend and should assemble at 2pm in the town centre.
'FOR GOD AND ULSTER'

FRIENDS AND COMRADES

Vol. T. Shaw ~ 3rd Battalion, Tigers Bay.
Vol. J. McIlhagga ~ 3rd Battalion, Tigers Bay.
Vol. T. Lyttle ~ 3rd Battalion, Tigers Bay.
Vol. J. McCrossan ~ 1st Belfast Battalion.
Vol. J. McMullan ~ 1st Belfast Battalion.
Vol. A. McClean ~ 1st Belfast Battalion.
Vol. N. Green ~ 1st Belfast Battalion.
Vol. P. Hughes ~ 1st Belfast Battalion.
Vol. B. Rollins ~ 1st Belfast Battalion.
Vol. P. Parsons ~ 1st Belfast Battalion.
Vol. J. Croft ~ 1st Belfast Battalion.
Vol. H. Stockman ~ 1st Belfast Battalion.
Vol. K. Hagan ~ 1st Belfast Battalion.
Vol. R. Jameson ~ Mid-Ulster Brigade.
Vol. D. Smith ~ North Antrim Brigade.
Vol. J. Hanna (sen) ~ 2nd Belfast Battalion.
Vol. I. Reid ~ 2nd Belfast Battalion.
Vol. J. McKeague ~ East Belfast Battalion.
Vol. R. Buchanan ~ Scotland.
Vol. B. Campbell ~ Scotland.
Vol. J. Duffy ~ Scotland.

Vol. E. Dodds ~ 3rd Battalion, Tigers Bay.
Vol. A. Cousins ~ 3rd Battalion, Tigers Bay.
Vol. G. Milligan ~ 1st Belfast Battalion.
Vol. R. Magill ~ 1st Belfast Battalion.
Vol. E. McCurdy ~ 1st Belfast Battalion.
Vol. J. Freel ~ 1st Belfast Battalion.
Vol. J. Gibson ~ 1st Belfast Battalion.
Vol. J. Morrison ~ 1st Belfast Battalion.
Vol. J. Campbell ~ 1st Belfast Battalion.
Vol. G. Colwell ~ 1st Belfast Battalion.
Vol. E. Dodds ~ 1st Belfast Battalion.
Vol. J. Long ~ East Belfast Battalion.
Vol. R. Bennett ~ East Belfast Battalion.
Vol. J. Cordner ~ East Belfast Battalion.
Vol. G. McCartney ~ East Belfast Battalion.
Vol. W. Stewart ~ 2nd Belfast Battalion.
Vol. K. Leneghan ~ 2nd Belfast Battalion.
Vol. G. Hislop ~ 1st East Antrim Battalion.
Vol. W. McGaughey ~ North Antrim Brigade.
Vol. S. McCrae ~ Red Hand Commando.
Vol. S. McClean ~ Scotland.

Ulster Volunteer Force Memorial, Regimental Bands Association

A belated Happy New Year to all our members and friends everywhere!

As you are all aware, as an Association we keep close tabs on the general Republican attitude towards Loyalist parading etc.

This is done by the close monitoring of Republican websites and publications.

In the December issue of the Continuity IRA's propaganda rag 'Saoirse', aside from the usual clap-trap within, there is a sickening article which in no uncertain terms, glorifies their organisation's ongoing attacks on 'The Brits In Ireland', paying particular focus to the recent attack on a PSNI station in County Armagh!

Incorporated into the bloodthirsty article, is a shocking photograph showing three heavily armed CIRA criminals, purported to be *'on patrol during the Loyalist marching season'*.

The message being sent out to all and sundry here, is unmistakeable, chilling and indeed, concise. No-one needs to read between the lines to work out that the message is ~

any law-abiding Loyalist man, women or child who 'dares' to peacefully celebrate their culture by traditional parading, is effectively putting their very lives at risk!

This visual statement on behalf of the criminally insane CIRA, effectively dictates that Protestant parade participants are 'legitimate targets', who they are more than prepared to attack, should they deem it necessary!

No-one can be under any illusion or disagree that the CIRA would not need much of an excuse to open fire upon a Loyalist parade, be it band or Loyal Orders, as the fact remains that the very sight of a collarette or the music of a flute, is enough to send these madmen into mass hysteria.

But what are the wider implications?

Traditional parading in Ulster hasn't been the easiest expression of culture for our people to achieve over the years, what with orchestrated and vicious Republican attacks, petty Government restrictions and the many ludicrous conditions imposed against all but implemented only against Loyalists, by the 'Charades Commission!'.

We as Loyalists and as parading Loyalists, are not fools, we know full well that each time we take to the Queen's Highway there is a considerable threat of attack from one source or another.

This recent admission however by the criminal CIRA, declaring that their armed members are observing and effectively targeting Loyalists during parades in the Armagh area and further afield, no doubt raises the bar, as they in no uncertain terms declare war on our freedom and religious liberties!

It is now that Protestants all across Ulster should be most vigilant.

The criminals of the CIRA have no wish to see peace in Ulster.

They have no desire to allow the celebration of Protestant culture, but are the first ones to shout their mouths off and ram Republican history down all our throats, at every available opportunity!

First and foremost, the Government and the PSNI, must intervene to remove these criminal scum from our midst.

Their sole agenda is to cast all the citizens of this land into the dark days of conflict once again, by effectively squeezing Protestantism into a submission that they will never achieve!

However, the fact remains that they are prepared to attempt this action.

The fact also remains that as our people parade in isolated areas, lurking in the bushes and undergrowth in close proximity, lie heavily armed and 'criminally insane maniacs', who could snap in a hairs breadth!

We will continue to monitor this situation and as ever, keep one and all posted as time progresses.

NO RESPECT FOR PROTESTANT CULTURE

• Pictured above are Armagh CIRA members on patrol during the loyalist marching season

The 2007 Season Approaches

Prepared or not, the 2007 marching season is all but upon us and before long, we will all be 'up to our necks' in parades each weekend as we approach the Glorious Twelfth!

One thing I have noticed from 2006, is that a huge number of member bands are organising indoor competitions / 'Battle Of The Bands style!'.

These events tend to be very popular and well supported.

They give the bands attending a chance to show 'what they are made of' and as one bandsman eloquently put it *'to do a bit of posing!'*.

It is during indoor competitions, that the true talent of our members is realised.

Without question, the UVF Band Association has a wealth of talent within and sadly, we don't recognise it nearly enough.

Therefore, on behalf of the Executive Committee of the Association, I pay tribute to you all for your continued dedication to the banding fraternity in general and to Loyalism as a whole.

In closing, I would like to remind everyone to make their best efforts to support each others parades and events, be they 'Memorial' or 'competition', in 2007.

Yes, we know the schedule is hectic and unforgiving, but at the end of the day this is why we exist, for Protestantism and for each other!

C.Valley

It's Londonderry! No Surrender!

THE O'LOAN REPORT AND RAYMOND McCORD

The local news in Ulster has churned out 'exclusive after exclusive', following the findings of the recently released Police Ombudsman's Report.

Headed by Nuala O'Loan (and pushed from behind by unstable third party irritations carrying personal agendas), the Police Ombudsman launched an 'in-depth investigation', into the activities of an Ulster Volunteer Force Unit based in Mount Vernon Estate (North Belfast).

In short, it was revealed that the Special Branch, attached to the then Royal Ulster Constabulary, had made inroads into the Mount Vernon UVF by the coercion of its then Officer Commanding, Mark Haddock.

In turn, for thirty pieces of silver (£160 per month from his handlers), Haddock provided information on his Comrades within the UVF, to Special Branch.

Further to this he was given carte blanche to freely target and murder, under the protection of 'The Branch'.

As a direct result of these revelations, the UVF's critics have jumped out of the woodwork and are (well they ***think*** they are!), having a 'field day', as they rant their **'told you so'** rhetoric.

'Collusion'

In any society, collusion is a dirty word, but let me make this abundantly clear, collusion is far from being a 'Loyalist specific' term.

All across Ireland, collusion with the security forces has ravaged and damaged Republicans just as much as these current revelations strive to damage true-Loyalism and without going too deep into things we need but mention two names,

1/ Denis Donaldson.

2/ Frederick Scappaticci.

The above names are a mere tip of the iceberg as far as Republican agents are concerned, however I think it is important while we are on the subject, that we mention the agent who lurks in the shadows of Republicanism to this very day! **Known as 'The Fisherman', this agent is said by many to be none other than Sinn Fein / IRA supremo, Martin McGuinness!**

'Bribery And Corruption'

Without a hint of doubt, the lure of money and personal reward has corrupted many men and women throughout 'The Troubles' in Ulster and beyond.

Many would argue that we in 'working class' Ulster, are a poor economy, thus the temptation by conflict protagonists to accept this dirty money, is simply too strong to resist.

Nonsense! Over the decades countless individuals have stepped forward to serve Ulster and Her people, not for reward, not for medals and not for a mighty pat on the back! These people took the steps necessary for one agenda alone, the survival of our beloved land!

In contrast, those who waned under the temptation of financial gain, were not true-Loyalists or for that matter, true Volunteers, to begin with!

They were 'in it', purely for their own pockets and their attitude was 'to hell with the Protestants of Ulster!'.

The circumstances of Mark Haddock and the treachery that surrounds him, will surely haunt him forever. (providing he can find a conscience that is!).

What folk are tending to forget though, is that the UVF became 'wise' to this treachery and in turn, took affirmative steps to reverse the damage and embarrassment that Haddock caused to Ulster Loyalism.

Above.
Mark Haddock, former Officer Commanding of the UVF in Mount Vernon, and Special Branch Agent. Haddock earned £160 per month for betraying his Comrades!

'WHAT PRICE LOYALTY?'

It has been stated many times in the pages of COMBAT and via other mediums, that when challenged by the UVF Leadership, Mark Haddock flatly refused to co-operate, in order to render an internal UVF investigation into his activities fruitless.

This refusal resulted in a specific course of action being taken against him.

1/ He was Court Martialled and subsequently expelled from the UVF.

2/ He was denied the right to serve his prison sentence on Loyalist wings.

The above is the price one pays for betraying ones country and the people one has sworn to serve and protect.

'Raymond McCord'

Naturally, the ubiquitous Raymond McCord, (father of murdered UVF member Raymond McCord junior), was 'front of the queue' to comment on the exposure of Haddock etc.

Since his ["innocent"] son's murder in 1997, McCord has waged a personal vendetta against the UVF.

A vendetta that at times went far and beyond sense and sensibility, as the volatile Raymond senior skulked about Belfast with a virtual pair of boxing gloves in his back pocket, hoping to stumble across and go head to head, with any unfortunate UVF member that happened to stumble across his path!

We at COMBAT say it loud and clear, regardless of who they are, the families of any murder victim deserves lawful justice.

Similar justice is deserved by the family of Raymond McCord junior, but there is one major problem that is conveniently forgotten about when Raymond senior continually proclaims his deceased son as an ***"innocent victim"*** and ***"lily white"***.

The problem we speak of is a viable point and to our knowledge, has never before been addressed properly.

'Mount Vernon UVF'

We made a statement at an earlier point in this article and we repeat it, Raymond McCord junior was an active member of the 3rd Battalion, Ulster Volunteer Force (Mount Vernon Unit).

Given this information, can anyone, hand on heart, believe that he was forced / conscripted into the ranks of the UVF and that during his Service with the Organisation in Mount Vernon, he remained wholly within the boundaries of the law, never taking part in 'operations etc'.

The Mount Vernon UVF (3rd Battalion), have been accredited by many sources, (PSNI / media), with a vast number of military operations over the years, so we say again, can anyone truly believe that Raymond McCord junior had no knowledge of or part to play in, UVF activities in this area?

We **do** sympathise with the McCord family over their loss but let's face it, Raymond junior was no innocent victim!

Tragically, he fell foul of dirty dealings with narcotics.

His murder was not UVF related.

His killers were not operating under sanction of the UVF.

This fate has been met by many young Protestants and Catholics, who foolishly permitted themselves to become involved with repulsive criminality, using Loyalism or for that matter Republicanism, as a cloak of convenience!

'Face To Face Meetings'

McCord senior has went on record in the media and tabloids many times over the years, 'demanding' face to face meetings regarding the murder, with both the UVF and the PUP. **Naively, the media, believing that the UVF / PUP should meet McCord, supported him 100%!**

Continued on adjacent page.

From previous page.

On this matter, a source claiming to represent the Ulster Volunteer Force, contacted COMBAT and stated.

"Raymond McCord has met with the UVF, informing us that he has information that a number of our members were involved in the killing of his son.

He was subsequently told to meet with a UVF Enquiry Team, which consisted of six Volunteers from various areas.

The Enquiry Team were specifically instructed to mask their identities from McCord, as the Ulster Volunteer Force Leadership was aware of McCord's previous campaign with the media against the Ulster Defence Association.

McCord met with the Enquiry Team and submitted to them, a list naming up to twelve people who he felt were involved in the murder.

Not once during this meeting, was there a mention of narcotics or Special Branch informers.

The source continued.

The Enquiry Team requested from Raymond McCord only one thing, that they be left to proceed with their investigations, without media hype.

He agreed this condition!

He was also asked to continue liaison with the Team, in the event of new information emerging that would aid the investigation.

Within a period exceeding no longer than fourteen days, McCord senior was back fulfilling his adopted role as a 'media junkie'.

Subsequently he was sent for by intermediaries and informed that the enquiry would be suspended for a period of time, in order to establish his credibility.

In other words, he was advised to stay away from the media and the enquiry would proceed.

The Ulster Volunteer Force would not have its Volunteers tried by the Organisation and the media at the same time!

The source concluded.

Raymond McCord senior failed to meet with these requirements and for a number of years, he reverted back to what he knows best, being a 'media junkie!'.

The Progressive Unionist Party has also met with him on a number of occasions and on one occasion in particular, unbeknown to the PUP representatives who were tasked with meeting him, McCord had organised for the media to be in place outside the meeting venue!

Ends.

Given the above exclusive statement from the UVF, one must ask if it is justice Raymond really wants, or blind revenge?

I mean, he has ranted in the gullible newspapers for years, about the 'blind refusal and ignorant attitudes' of the UVF and PUP in relation to meeting him, when all the time he has had meetings with them! It is now obvious that the UVF and the PUP have done all in their power to assist and accommodate Raymond McCord yet time after time, the accommodation was thrown back in their faces!

Above,
Vivienne and Raymond McCord are pictured by the Sunday World at the graveside of their murdered son, Raymond Junior.
I do not think it is unreasonable to ask why they are holding a photo of their son as a young boy?
Is this a clever ploy to canvass public support?
After all, tragic as it was, when their son was murdered he was <u>not</u> a boy of eight years, but a grown man and an active member of the 3rd Belfast Battalion of the Ulster Volunteer Force!
(Mount Vernon Unit).

<u>'There's Threats And There's Threats!'</u>

Furthermore, never a week passes that we don't hear of a 'supposed' death threat being issued to Raymond McCord.

On countless occasions, his allies in the Sunday World, have asked for UVF clarification of these 'supposed' threats.

Many times, through the medium of COMBAT and other respectable tabloids, the Ulster Volunteer Force has stated that absolutely no threat exists against Raymond McCord.

To vindicate the UVF's assurances on this matter, the PSNI have also gone on record as being unable to give firm verification as to the true source of the threats!

<u>'Dirty Tricks?'</u>

Truth be told however, a 'hushed opinion' was circulating late last year throughout the journalist fraternity, that the 'threats' against McCord may have been cleverly constructed in order to gain public support!

<u>'Desperate Measures'</u>

In light of the recently released O'Loan Report, he has intensified his 'campaign' and has even gone to the lengths of urging the Sinn Fein leadership to scrap their plans to lobby their members to support the PSNI, prior to their recent Ard Fheis in Dublin!

(a non-starter Raymond!)

Also, in a recent television interview, he publicly lambasted the newly elected Progressive Unionist Party Chairperson, Dawn Purvis, for her commonsense refusal to meet with him!

In his usual ignorance, McCord ranted ***'this refusal to meet me is a continuation of the attitude of David Ervine'.***

<u>'Playground Point Scoring'</u>

In an attempt to add insult to injury in an interview relating to the same matter and published in a recent edition of the News Letter, McCord could do nothing better than besmirch David Ervine's memory with the snide remark, ***'they claimed thousands attended Ervine's funeral when there were only several hundred'.***

For McCord to stoop to playground point scoring against the Ulster Volunteer Force and Progressive Unionist Party in this ridiculous manner, shows the true mentality of the man and serves to offend the feelings of absolutely no-one but the Ervine family circle who, as we all know, have suffered enough with their loss!

THE TRUTH WILL PREVAIL!

A COMMUNITY UNITED!

Following the recent horrific rape of a teenage girl in Woodvale Park, Belfast, local community body 'Alternatives', collated an impromptu rally to highlight the disgust and fears of the people of the area and beyond.

Rape cannot under any circumstances be excused and there is a general perception in society, that it is only 'seedy old men' who are the perpetrators of rape!

This perception has been well and truly kicked into touch many times, but when it was revealed on this occasion that the attackers were two schoolboys aged 13 years, a deathly numbness fell over one and all!

Without a shadow of a doubt, what we are witnessing here, is a disastrous reflection on life today.

By in large, in this modern world, kids are no longer innocent nor naïve!

Society has well and truly forced children to be adults long before their time!

Sadly, with this modern conditioning, comes the temptations of alcohol, crime, drugs and general anti-social behaviour, as a large majority of very young teenagers run riot on our streets!

In this case, the accused have been charged with attempted rape, aiding and abetting rape, grievous bodily harm, making threats to kill and robbery!

Despite the fact that they voluntarily surrendered themselves to the PSNI, when they appeared before Belfast Youth Court the only comment made by one of the boys was, ***'I didn't rape nobody!'.***

In response, a PSNI officer stated that he could connect both of the accused with the charges laid before them.

Although the identity of the boys is known to many within our community, the presiding Magistrate at the hearing made a specific order banning the publication of any information that might identify the victim or the accused.

COMBAT respects that first and foremost, the identity of the young girl must be protected at all costs and although we have consistently held a policy of naming and shaming anyone who would bring discredit to society, after much debate we have decided to abide by the legal stipulations and not name the boys involved.

The case is now in the hands of the judicial system and we trust that right will prevail and justice will be served, should the charges be proved.

We also hope that a clear signal will be sent out to **anyone** that thinks they can ruin the lives of innocents and destroy entire communities with their evil deeds.

As we have stated many times before, we cannot 100% lay the blame at the feet of parents for the actions of their children. But realistically, each and every one of us should at least have an inkling as to what our children are doing when they leave the family home.

It is a hard but accurate fact that the heartless scum who lurk the streets, luring our young folk into crime and depraved acts such as rape, have corrupted many over the years.

In addition to this, and again as previously stated, it grieves us to admit that alcohol and illegal drugs are freely available for anyone who wishes to procure and abuse them, be it adult or child.

This is a recipe for disaster in itself as it creates an insatiable hunger which invariably leads to the necessity for a 'fix'.

Under these conditions, money is required and it doesn't matter how this money is attained. **This is where serious crime sets in and innocents suffer!**

This is where the community and the PSNI must work in conjunction to ensure safety on our streets for one and all!

On a cold December evening and despite the driving wind and rain, several hundred local residents, community workers and residents from the Catholic community, (who we were delighted to welcome), gathered at Woodvale Park, to join together in condemnation of the act and in support for the young girl concerned.

Prior to the arrival of the platform party, gospel singers Kate McCrory and Alan Bruce from the group, 'Word Of Faith', sang a selection of uplifting hymns and ballads, for those gathered.

The speakers were as follows,

Clergy ~ Rev John Wannacott.
Community ~ Baroness May Blood.
PSNI ~ Andrea McMullan.
NI Alternatives ~ Debbie Watters.

Tributes were paid by all speakers, to the young girl concerned, for her remarkable bravery in coping with her ordeal.

Accolades also were heaped upon the local community who, as ever when tragedy strikes, bonded together to form a solid support base for the victim.

All present were visibly touched to learn that the young victim had penned a short letter to be read out at the event. (see below). For her to make such a gesture so soon after the horror she endured, speaks volumes for her strength and is indeed a reflection of the positive support and assistance she received from all concerned.

We are ashamed that the heinous crime took place at all, but at least we can rest assured that when our community suffers at the hands of criminals, there are folk there to lean on and to rely upon!

Top left, The Reverend John Wannacott offers a word of prayer, prior to the official addresses from the platform party.

Top right, 'Word Of Faith' perform a selection of hymns for those gathered, as a TV crew films the proceedings.

I wish there was a more personal way of trying to thank all of you for the quick help and great support that you have given me in various ways throughout my ordeal.

I especially want to thank the police for their very good and quick work, and not forgetting all the witnesses and people who didn't hesitate to get involved.

Thanks also to the churches who gave me support, not only in terms of prayers, and to those known and unknown people, who helped me financially.

I give thanks also, to those kind people who sent me their love and indeed everyone who stood by me.

It is due to God and all of you that I can use the bus again, without fearing these two people could board it.

That I can walk the streets alone without being terrified that I could suddenly meet my attackers.

I can feel safe once again.

I can't say anything else, except thank you all so much!

Top left. Baroness May Blood addresses the crowd.
Top centre. 'The Platform Party' ~ Rev. John Wannacott, Andrea McMullan, Baroness May Blood, Debbie Watters.
Above left. Andrea McMullan offers the full support of the PSNI.
Above centre. 'A moment's reflection' ~ The community comes together.
Far right. 'You Raise Me Up' ~ Performed beautifully by Jim Weir.

We at COMBAT Magazine send our best wishes to the young girl and we trust that she will maintain the strength to move forward in her life and indeed prosper.
What we must do now though, is urge parents everywhere to try to be aware of the activities of their children when they leave the family home.
Look for the signs of alcohol or drug abuse, know who your children are with and what they 'get up to'.
This community has suffered more than enough through decades of hardship and violence, without embarking upon a nightmare situation whereby we cannot walk our streets or stroll in our parks, for fear of our young people and what they might do to us!

MORE COMMUNITY CONCERNS

'Some people never learn!'

I recall penning an article for COMBAT last January, relating to the irresponsible parents of Ulster (and in particular Greater Belfast), who had given their children motor bikes or 'quads' as Christmas presents, then proceeded to permit them to ride rough-shot though the streets and roads of our City, dodging death or serious injury, as they speed across busy carriageways and pedestrian pavements.

The tragic death of a young baby on Belfast's Shankill Road last year, reinforced our concerns but sadly, did not send out a message of concern to many parents.

In the weeks that followed Christmas 2006, COMBAT was inundated with the concerns of residents across Ulster, relaying numerous reports of young kids dicing with death on main and secondary roads!

I must concur with these fears as the number of minors witnessed by myself doing likewise all across Belfast, was beyond belief!

In short, not to mention the great personal risk to themselves as these kids illegally 'hammer along' on their powerful motor bikes and quads, Ulster's motorists, pedestrians and old folk, are rendered equally as vulnerable!

But where are these kid's parents? Why have they not taken on board the hard lesson that more deaths are imminent by their kid's crazy actions and by their parental neglect?

One more very important question is prompted here and that is, why are the police not acting to take the offenders (both 'riders' and parents), to task and why are the police continually plaguing ordinary motorists across the city for menial offences such as parking etc., but at the same time, ignoring young kids who are by far creating a much more hazardous situation?

I hope and pray that it won't be a case of shutting the gate when the horse has bolted!

'More Lack Of Responsibility'

A matter of days ago in Donegall Pass, the PSNI were forced to shoot a dog, 'displaying the characteristics', (although unconfirmed as such), of an American Staffordshire Terrier, (pit-bull).

The dog in question was irresponsibly permitted by its owners, to roam freely through the streets of the small Protestant enclave in South Belfast.

Whilst 'roaming', the animal attacked a smaller dog which sadly died as a result of its injuries.

To their great credit, several local residents desperately attempted to halt the attack but were unsuccessful.

As young children were playing in the vicinity, the PSNI were called in order to bring the attack to an end before the dog 'turned' on the children.

In reality, this occurrence could easily have been prevented and is yet another example of adult irresponsibility.

Dog owners (regardless of the breed), should never permit their animals to roam freely in any environment, let alone densely populated residential areas. **In turn, attacks such as this would be a thing of the past.**

I am a firm believer of 'blaming the deed not the breed', and as reinforced by the United Kingdom Kennel Club, were it not for the sheer irresponsibility of some owners and the criminality of others in regards to illegal dog fighting etc, the hype created by the media about 'pit-bull devil dogs' and 'pit-bull killing machines', would not be the major issue it is and responsible owners could keep their pets without fear of prosecution, because realistically, **any breed of dog is capable of 'attack!'.**

'A Common Trait'

But like those who permit their kids to race our streets creating havoc on powerful machines, dog owners who neglect their responsibilities and create havoc on Ulster's streets, should also be taken to task!

There should be strict guidelines for the usage of quads etc., there should also be strict guidelines and conditions for dog ownership, including American Staffordshire Terriers!

There **are** decent and responsible adults out there who take their commitments seriously, be it their children's hobbies and past-times, or their family pets.

These people do not deserve to suffer for the sloppy attitudes of parents and animal owners who do not care less!

There is a clear and simple lesson here for <u>both</u> communities in Ulster. That lesson is prevention of death or injury!

The authorities now need to get with the programme and instead of persecuting the innocent……..prosecute the guilty!

'Peace And Dignity'

In Memory Of Volunteer David Ervine

Controversial, forthright, groundbreaking, determined, honest, reliable, unflappable, loyal!

Just some of the words that scratch the surface of summing up the dedicated family man, ex-Loyalist prisoner, PUP Leader and UVF Volunteer that was David Ervine.

David passed away on January 8th 2007, following a short, aggressive illness.

His untimely death rocked not only the political world, but the world of the ordinary 'man in the street'.

No more-so was this prevalent, than in the interviews conducted on Belfast's Falls Road by Ulster Television.

In these 'street interviews', the Catholics of West Belfast were asked to give their opinion on the life and contribution of David Ervine to Ulster politics.

To the amazement of one and all, those approached freely spoke with great emotion, about a much loved and respected man of **all** the people!

Sadly, these sentiments did not extend to the Republican rabble who purport to support Cliftonville Football Club.

During a recent match against Glentoran FC (of whom David was a lifelong supporter), these scum jeered and booed during a minutes silence in his memory!

Overall though, the tributes flowed in from right across the political spectrum, from the Whitehouse to the Australian Parliament, from the Irish Government to Sinn Fein!

Let me be clear and indeed concise in what I am about to say. It is the agenda of COMBAT Magazine, to expose Sinn Fein and the Republican Movement as the charlatans we all know they are, but on this occasion we must hold our hands up and say 'fair play'.

The Sinn Fein Leadership immediately spoke out to extend their condolences to "*David's family, his colleagues and friends*". (Adams' quotation).

In addition to these words, Gerry Adams himself (accompanied by Alex Maskey), attended the funeral service on the Newtownards Road, knowing well that they would be in the literal presence of thousands of Loyalists and UVF Volunteers.

Any reservations the Sinn Fein representatives may have had though, were dispelled when they were thanked for their attendance and welcomed, by David's brother Brian.

Without doubt this gesture from 'The Shinners' (as David called them), spoke volumes of the once UVF bomber, turned respected politician.

As a man, David discriminated against neither race nor creed in his work of uniting the people of Ulster and beyond.

This work was reflected, as previously stated, in the many touching tributes received by the family, the media, and of course, by COMBAT Magazine.

(a small selection of tributes are reproduced on page 12).

The service and funeral was awash with dignitaries. A few of those in attendance being, NI Secretary of State Peter Hain, former Taoiseach Albert Reynolds, the Republic's Foreign Minister Dermot Ahern and PSNI Chief Constable Sir Hugh Orde.

David's brother, Brian, spoke at the service in the East Belfast Mission, affectionately referring to David as his "*wee brother who would have been delighted to see traditional enemies coming together to mourn him*".

Brian continued, "*David was a man who had the guts to climb out of the trenches and meet the traditional enemy in no man's land and play ball with them.*

He urged the people of Northern Ireland to transcend the 'Irish problem' and live together in peace". **On those fitting sentiments, we extend our sincere sympathy to the Ervine family circle.**

Above, A serious looking David is pictured whilst delivering a political speech in East Antrim (2001).

Left, David is pictured dedicating a Memorial mural in South Belfast, marking the 90th Anniversary of the Ulster Volunteer Force in 2002. On the day that this picture was taken, David had not long returned from a political visit to Australia, and despite being severely jet-lagged, he had no hesitation whatsoever in offering his services for the task in hand.

Below, David is pictured with colleagues from the Progressive Unionist Party. He relished days like this, as he thrived on interaction with his friends and associates.

At The Going Down Of The Sun, And In The Morning,

Immediate left ~
Thousands of mourners are pictured, as the cortege makes its way along the Newtownards Road in East Belfast.

Far left ~
An emotional moment as Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams embraces David's wife Jeanette, following the religious service outside East Belfast Mission.

Left ~
Gerry Adams and Alex Maskey are pictured as they make their way through the huge crowd of mourners, following the service.

WE WILL REMEMBER HIM

'He shall grow not old,
As we that are left
grow old.
Age shall not weary him,
Nor the years condemn'

Lest We Forget

Lest We Forget

'At the going down
of the sun,
And in the morning,
We will remember him'
For God And Ulster

Above centre ~ David pictured during a recent fact finding mission to the old HMP Maze site, (Long Kesh).
Above ~ David with other community representatives, announcing the Loyalist ceasefire in 1994.

'At The Going Down Of The Sun'
Personal Tributes To Volunteer David Ervine

Since the untimely passing of our good friend and Comrade, Volunteer David Ervine, COMBAT Magazine has been literally overwhelmed with messages of condolence from all across the globe, in tribute to a man who was undoubtedly one of a kind. We sincerely thank all who forwarded messages of sympathy, a selection of which, are reproduced here.

Precious Memories Of A True Ulsterman.
Volunteer David Ervine
Remembered with fond affection, by his friends in Australia who will never forget the many times we shared together.
'At Home With The Lord'

The Executive Committee, Ulster Volunteer Force Memorial, Regimental Bands Association, extends deepest sympathy to the Ervine family circle, upon the loss of our dear friend David.
'In God Our Trust'

Ulster Volunteer Force,
1st Battalion 'B' Company
Cambuslang (Scotland).
Deepest sympathy is extended to the family of our good friend and Comrade,
Volunteer David Ervine.
He will always be in our hearts and minds.

'FOR GOD AND ULSTER'

The Sons Of Ulster Flute Band (Randalstown)
Star And Crown Flute Band (Castledawson)
Steeple Defenders Flute Band (Antrim)
Honour with pride the memory of Volunteer David Ervine
And extend deepest sympathy to the family circle.
'We Will Remember Him'

Volunteer David Ervine
Treasured memories of a truly dedicated Ulsterman.
He will be remembered for all time by the Officers and Volunteers,
London Brigade,
Ulster Volunteer Force
'At Rest'

In Memory Of Volunteer David Ervine,
Died 8th January 2007.
Your courage and love for Ulster will always be remembered.
Our thoughts are with the Ervine family circle at this time.
The Officers and Volunteers,
Ulster Volunteer Force (Partick / Glasgow)

COMMAND STAFF
ULSTER VOLUNTEER FORCE

The people of Ulster have lost an honest, forthright and unbiased politician, who tirelessly worked for all, in the form of Volunteer David Ervine.
David's efforts to bring peace to Ulster, have been praised on high across the globe and his legacy will stand to guide us all into a brighter future.
We extend our deepest sympathy to his sorrowing wife Jeanette and indeed, the entire family circle.
'SLEEP WELL COMRADE'

David Ervine had established many lasting friendships throughout the Republic Of Ireland.
On behalf of those he met with, assisted in every way possible and enjoyed a 'bit of craic' with,
I send our heartfelt sympathy.
Our prayers are extended to his family and friends in the North.
It saddens us that we will never see another in the mould of David Ervine.
For all time we will hold close to our hearts and treasure, the memories he left with us.
G.Connolly

Cliftonville Supporters Pay Tribute

We have taken the decision to contact COMBAT Magazine among other local tabloids, in order to redress the disgraceful behaviour of some so-called fans of our beloved Football Club, during a minutes silence in respect of David Ervine MLA.
We fully acknowledge that David was indeed a man who strived for peace for everyone in this country, be they Protestant or Catholic, and we believe that both communities have lost 'one of a kind'.
our prayers go to his remaining family.
Thank you.

Regimental Band,
Ulster Volunteer Force
Sincere sympathy is extended to Jeanette and the Ervine family circle, upon the sad loss of our friend, David.
David was a great supporter of our band and will be remembered for all time, with fond affection.
'FOR GOD AND ULSTER'

Our sincere sympathies are sent to the family and colleagues of our close friend David Ervine, from all who knew him in South Africa. A peacemaker such as he comes along but once in a lifetime and to lose such a honest man, is blow to all the people of Ireland whom he represented with vigour and impartiality. 'Remembered'

As a long time scholar of Loyalism and first generation Irish-American, I feel that Mr. Ervine's death is a loss not only for those that loved him, but for the communities that he faithfully served.
'Hopeful and realistic to the complex problems of Northern Ireland',
'brave and pioneering'.
These are but a few ideas that come to mind when I think of David.
Overall though, I truly believe that Ulster has lost one of its biggest advocates for a peace that both sides of the religious and political divide could live with.
'He Will Be Missed'
***
From his many friends in the United States Of America.

David Ervine was a wonderful, warm hearted man and a big politician who made a huge contribution to the Belfast Agreement of 1998 and its successful endorsement. Intensely intelligent, articulate and hugely energetic, prison gave Davy the space to see through the countless blind alleys down which sectarian politics in Northern Ireland led. He explored and espoused other political avenues that brought a new basis to grasp the common realities of life in the working class areas of Belfast, both Protestant and Catholic.
The suffering of the unemployed, whether on the Falls or the Shankill, poor education and housing, the stresses on poor families (Protestant or Catholic) with the breadwinner in prison, were all issues that forged his political commitment.
But Davy went further, he espoused and grasped the importance of women as a factor in driving a wedge through the damaging violence of sectarian politics, forming a strong alliance with the newly formed Woman's Coalition and their two women in the talks, Pearl Sagar and Monica McWilliams. What he really enjoyed though, was speaking, persuading, debating and talking. His continuous political seminars on the fringe of the Labour Party conferences into the early hours, left a lasting impression on many in our Party.
There was a warmth and optimism, and appreciation of how the New Labour Government under Tony Blair and Mo Mowlam threw themselves into bringing peace and new politics into Northern Ireland. It was a case that a Labour Government was necessary to allow the common alternative political strands to come to the fore and deliver a lasting peace. It allows new alliances to deliver the Agreement and, although Davy remained pessimistic and frustrated that the onward progress was painfully slow, its achievement will be a huge part of his legacy.
Our deepest sympathies go to his family and friends and also to the people of Northern Ireland, who have lost a fine leader and a lovely man.

Martin Salter MP, John Spellar MP, Angela E Smith MP, Michael Grapes MP, Jane Kennedy MP, Paul Murphy MP, Margaret Moran MP, Stephen Pound MP, Helen Jackson, Harry Barnes, John McFall, Alf Dubs (House Of Lords).

"LET'S FINISH THE JOB!"
David Ervine's Final Political Statement

One of David Ervine's closest friends, was the Belfast Telegraph's 'security writer' Brian Rowan.

At a service held for family and close friends prior to the main service in East Belfast Mission, Brian spoke fondly of his times with David. With great emotion he recalled the debating, arguing, discussing, laughing, and of course, the many pints 'of the black stuff', shared over the years. Obviously they were close, not just mere associates, but friends!

The anecdotes and amusing scenarios that arose between the two men, demonstrated a different side to David than most would have seen when he was being interviewed on television or in the tabloids.

To his many friends, David was a practical joker.

He had a sharp, witty sense of humour that endeared him to one and all and was a world away from the serious, articulate politician who we so regularly watched with awe on our television screens.

A matter of days before David passed away, he penned an article for publication by Brian Rowan in the 'Tele'.

Without hesitation, David's family consented to the publication of the article as a 'final thought' from their loved one.

The article is reproduced here in full

'It is hard to tell just where we are at the moment with the 'tug of jaw' that is going on between the DUP and Sinn Fein. Both are supposed to have serious internal dissent to contend with, both will, due to that perception, plead with the Prime Minister to understand that they are running at maximum risk levels.

Alas, it would be foolish to assume that each side is feigning difficulty merely as a negotiation tactic.

Yes, I have no doubt that it is a usable issue ~ Trimble and Adams were at it all the time. Now is the endgame!

The reality is stark for supporters who never thought that it would come to this, realising a new phase of partnership and co-operation is going to replace the belligerence so enjoyed by each.

So far, the Shinners could get away with unpopular things, as long as whatever they did cracked the Unionists up! On the other hand, the DUP could be seen as reasonable, as long as the Shinners were perceived not to be able to come up to the required mark.

Ian Paisley and Gerry Adams will be very conscious of their own internal difficulties. They will also be factoring issues that will not be in the minds of the Party functionaries. **For instance, what is the price for blame? What is the alternative? What is the consequence of failure?**

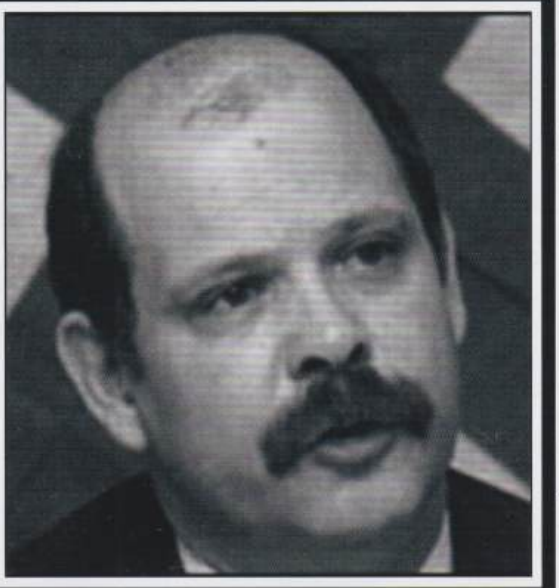
The real mood within our community is proving hard to read. There are few signs that the voter is particularly exercised by the possibility of a deal.

The mood seems to be actually very calm. Those old enough will remember the anger and bitterness abroad over the years when some initiative or another was mooted. Thankfully, those days seem gone.

In recent times we've seen how both sides, while quietly negotiating, have almost let on that they are not negotiating.

The DUP have been particularly guilty in this respect. St. Andrews was built around the two protagonists ~ to the virtual exclusion of all others.

Devolution and policing stood out with requirements expected from both sides.



"The endgame was always going to shake up the Republican Movement and its supporters. It is after all, the final acceptance by Republicans of Northern Ireland as a viable and integral part of the United Kingdom"

It seems to have gone downhill from then.

If the DUP agreed devolution, Sinn Fein would sign up to policing. Sounds simple, doesn't it? Clearly not!

The DUP won't accept Sinn Fein in Government until they sign up to policing.

The Shinners can't sign up, it would seem, until a date for the devolution of police and justice powers has been agreed by all.

Chicken and egg? You bet!

Meanwhile, we all sit and wait, the British Government could legislate for such a target date. The problem with that possibility is that if the DUP, who expect to be the largest Party, didn't agree, the Government would be forced to write in a destabilising sanction along the lines of suspending the Assembly in the event the date was not met.

Stop / start is nothing new to us, however, if such a sanction were created, the potential is that the whole focus for the foreseeable future would be upon policing and justice ~ and little else!

The belligerence would be centre stage. Every crackpot outside the peace process would hold the future in their hands, rather than in the hands of elected representatives.

The next phase of the peace process is parliamentary democracy. It would be a travesty to get stuck at this point.

It has taken a long time to ensure that politics takes primacy over paramilitarism.

The establishment of the Assembly is absolutely vital to finish the job.

Other factors ~ such as taking responsibility for health, education and the economy etc., are pressing. Being stuck where we are for any length of time is unthinkable.

The endgame was always going to shake up the Republican Movement and its supporters.

It is, after all, the final acceptance by Republicans of Northern Ireland as a viable and integral part of the UK.

It is also the final acceptance by Republicans that no authority other than State Authority, is either practicable or tolerable. It is worth considering that if Adams pulls it off at the Ard Fheis, a real line in history will have been drawn.

Quite a number of options exist in the political process if the DUP help create a date for the devolution of policing and justice and the position of Sinn Fein is proving dubious.

Given the prize that is on offer for this society, it would be a shame if it were stalled and undermined.

Put it up to the Shinners! They will have a substantial management project because of the challenge. From my point of view I hope Adams pulls it off.

We, the Unionists, should facilitate him to do so. Either the DUP and Sinn Fein are going to fulfil the promise of St. Andrews or they are not. Recently the Prime Minister made the point that if no agreement emerged around the dispute issue then the proposed election of March 7th would not take place. The concept of deadline has been examined before. The Prime Minister should now make it an absolute deadline that must be met. The normal convention is that four weeks before an election, the Assembly would be dissolved.

February 7th should be the deadline. Make it and stick to it!

The cause of peace does not rest with two Parties alone. If the plug is pulled on the Assembly the next step is clear. We just start all over again!

In such circumstances, let's hope 'Plan B' doesn't pollute things too much'.

David Ervine MLA

LAMBEGS ON THE SHANKILL

On 9th December 2006, the West Belfast Athletic And Cultural Society, organised a Lambeg drumming competition, in memory of our dear departed friend, Richard Jameson.

As we are all aware, Richard was murdered by the cowardly LVF, in January 2000. He was a sterling activist within his local community in Portadown and surrounding areas, and his ultimate goal in life, was to witness the education of our youth, in the age old traditions of Protestantism and Loyalism.

Richard was also particularly outspoken against those from within Protestantism, who would poison our communities with their evil drugs and other nefarious crimes.

It was because of this honourable stance that he was brutally murdered, however, since his passing, the true-Loyalists of Ulster have resolved to continue spreading the message that Richard held so dear.

Richard held many things close to his heart, none least than the marching bands of Ulster, and the Lambeg drums!

In this light, the lads in the W.B.A.C.S., thought it fitting that the **'Richard Jameson Lambeg Drumming Competition'**, should be formulated. On the day of the event, drummers travelled from all across Ulster to take part in the competition which was hosted by the Rex Bar on the Shankill Road. The photographs featured here are but a few of the many competitors.

Combat Staff conducted an interview with the presiding official. We probed said gentleman on the topic of drumming and we were informed, *"As judge I am looking for several aspects regarding the instrument, 'clarity, balance and weight'. It is most important that the drum is tensioned equally, hence giving the drum skins a good balance of sound and tone.*

Most people think that drummers strap on a drum and 'batter away at it' to any old rhythm, but to the trained ear, the beats denote specific tunes and calls. The Lambeg is a difficult instrument to master and when played properly, it can make the 'hairs on the back of yer neck', stand on end!".

COMBAT decided to investigate the history of the drum and unearthed a wealth of information, some of which we have made available here. The Lambeg drum is traditionally associated with the Orange Order and the annual July 12th processions. It has a diameter of about ninety centimetres and a depth of some seventy-five centimetres, it weighs approximately forty pounds.

The frame is constructed from oak and the heads are goatskin (although other skins have been used in the past). The drum is 'beaten' with a pair of canes which are fifty-five centimetres long.

When being played, the drum is supported by a leather strap which is worn around the neck of the drummer, who must arch his back and bend his knees slightly to enable him to walk whilst playing.

The early history of the drum is uncertain. Most drummers, when questioned about its origin, give one of several differing accounts to explain the emergence of the prototype.

One favourite story is that the Lambeg drum was brought to Ulster from Holland, by the Duke of Schomberg's troops, during the Williamite campaign in Ireland (1688-1690).

There is little evidence to support this particular theory however, as no mention of drums of such outstanding proportions as the Lambeg, have been found in contemporary accounts.

That being said, it is a fact that large drums were used in this era, as shown by the numerous reference of 'kettle-drums' in history books. (*"we were greatly surprised when we heard the whole of the Irish Horse coming in, in very good order, with kettle-drums, haut-boys and trumpets*".).

Some drummers believe that the first Lambeg drum was made specifically for the Battle of the Diamond in 1795, an appropriate date in the minds of many drummers, as it may be taken to mark the formation of the Orange Order in Ireland.

Below left ~ A competitor joins the competition.
Below middle ~ The judging begins in earnest!
Right ~ Competitors proudly pose beside their South Belfast Ulster Volunteers Drum, crafted in memory of the late Brother and Sir Knight, William Morrow. (UVF).

Top left ~ The Richard Jameson Memorial Drum.
Top right ~ The Pride Of Tyrone Memorial Drum.
Dedicated to the late Bro. R. Orr.
Left ~ Close up of the South Belfast Memorial Drum.
Above ~ 'Train 'em young', the youngest drummers of the day!
Below ~ The Judge listens intently.

Long May The Proud Tradition Of The Lambeg Continue!

THE POLICING DEBATE!

The recent Sinn Fein Ard Chomairle decision to table a motion at Ard Fheis level for the acceptance of policing, has resulted in widespread Republican opposition and protests.

Although the motion (and its subsequent acceptance at Ard Fheis) is truly groundbreaking, it has sent shock-waves through the Republican Movement!

In a radio interview broadcast prior to the Ard Fheis, Paul McGlinchey, (brother of deceased INLA criminal, Dominic McGlinchey), stated, "*when I joined the IRA I was instructed that I should never recognise the police or the British judicial system. I stuck by this code all my life as did every true Republican. But now the very people who set this code of conduct are telling me that I should accept the very people we have fought against all our lives.*

As a parting shot across the Sinn Fein bows, Paul McGlinchey added the dissident Republican slogan, "*This is a bridge too far*".

IS THIS THE DEMISE OF SINN FEIN?

As reported in issue 39 of COMBAT, a number of dissidents, Sinn Fein hardliners and supporters hold 'bridge to far' attitudes, and even before the Ard Fheis had met, the general consensus among these warmongers, was that Sinn Fein had sold out!

Although the support for policing is indeed groundbreaking, it could in the long run herald Sinn Fein's downfall, if they continue to lose support and if the hard-line 'independents' who are threatening to stand against them in forthcoming elections, find a mandate!

PM TONY BLAIR STATED

"*On policing, justice and the rule of law, Sinn Fein will propose to their Party's Ard Fheis, that Sinn Fein commit now and fully to support the PSNI and the criminal justice system, and actively encourage everyone to co-operate fully with the police services in tackling crime in all areas, as well as actively supporting all the criminal justice institutions.*

These proposals, if committed to and acted upon, amount to the support by Sinn Fein for the rule of law, police and the Courts that is necessary".

GERRY ADAMS REPLIED

"*Last Friday the Sinn Fein Leadership set out in the clearest possible terms, our commitment to move forward on policing.*

We now need to see the same clarity from the DUP.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair's statement this morning, accurately summarises the core of our Ard Fheis motion on policing.

Last Friday the Sinn Fein Ard Chomhairle backed a proposal to convene a special Ard Fheis on policing. We set out in clear and unequivocal terms, the substance of the motion which we would put to the Ard Fheis and our intention to hold this before the end of January. We also set a very clear course forward and stated very plainly that we would be going to the Party to ask it to support this motion.

This is a hugely significant step, and I repeat my earlier comments, the British Prime Minister Tony Blair's statement this morning, accurately summarises the core of our Ard Fheis motion on policing".

I don't think Gerry Adams could have been clearer with the above statement and it is now quite obvious that the Sinn Fein leadership have accepted that the only way forward is to fully accept policing and the word of the law.

THE DUP RESPOND

Upon the release of the above statements from Blair and Adams, DUP Leader Ian Paisley responded, he said.

"*Over the course of the last number of days I have made it clear to the Prime Minister that upfront delivery is required from Sinn Fein on the issue of support for the PSNI, the Courts and the rule of law.*

I welcome the PM's assessment. Sinn Fein must deliver on policing in a real and meaningful way. There can be no movement unless we have clarity on the need for everyone to support the rule of law.

The PM is well aware that we are willing to make progress on a level playing field when there is full support for, and co-operation with, the police.

The time for action from Sinn Fein is now.

If we are to see further political developments, then it must be in the context of full and final delivery from Republicans.

On this there will be no weakening.

We have remained steadfast on the need to achieve full delivery and if confidence is to be built, then it is up to Sinn Fein to match their words with deeds".

THE SINN FEIN ARD FHEIS

It is now several weeks since Sinn Fein's Ard Fheis and as we all know, the proposal to accept policing and the word of the law, was accepted by clear majority!

Sinn Fein immediately felt the backlash of this decision however, as Republican dissidents embarked on a virtual media rampage, condemning the Shinners as 'traitors' and 'British puppets'.

In Londonderry, dissidents who had anticipated the decision, gathered for a 'heated protest'.

One banner displayed conveyed fully their disgruntled feelings.

'Sinn Fein / RUC / PSNI Scum!'

We have touched upon the fact that prior to the Ard Fheis decision, dissidents like Paul McGlinchey were 'shooting their mouths off' and pledging to stand against Sinn Fein in the forthcoming elections.

Now that the decision has been confirmed, we can reveal the names of other dissidents who have emerged as possible 'runners'.

Continued on adjacent page.

Left,

Media photograph taken at the recent Sinn Fein Ard Chomhairle, following the decision that the leadership under Gerry Adams, should recommend at 'Ard Fheis level', the support of policing and the word of law, in Northern Ireland

From previous page.

Dominic Og McGlinchey. Son of deceased INLA criminal Dominic McGlinchey and once well known Sinn Fein supporter.

He has suggested that he may stand for election in West Tyrone.

Keeping it in the family, McGlinchey snr's aunt, and once Sinn Fein Assembley Member **Geraldine Dougan**, is considering standing in Mid-Ulster as an Independent against Martin McGuinness.

Davy Hyland, (ex Sinn Fein hard-liner who was recently deselected from standing due to his policies), is debating whether to fight the forthcoming election against his old Party in Newry / Armagh.

Veteran Republican **Lawrence O'Neill** is tipped to stand against the 'Shinners' in North Antrim.

On a 'socialist ticket', former civil rights leader **Eamonn McCann** will contest Foyle.

The biggest shock though, could come slightly closer to home in Belfast, where former IRA Belfast Brigade Commander **Brendan Hughes** 'may' be standing if his health permits.

In a recently released statement he said,

"I would not think twice about running against Adams.

The only deterrent preventing me at this moment in time, is my current ill-health.

That being said, should anyone else decide to stand against him, they can rely on my full support!".

One of Sinn Fein's strongest seats is in the constituency of Fermanagh / South Tyrone. This Constituency has a Sinn Fein MP in the form of Michelle Gildernew, and two Sinn Fein Assembly members.

In 1981 it came to international attention, when IRA hunger-striker Bobby Sands captured a Westminster seat!

Within the past number of days, **Gerry McGeough** (pictured below), has announced that he is to fight Sinn Fein for this seat in the Assembly Election, as a result of their *'betrayal of Republican principles'.*

McGeough was jailed in the United States for gun-running and is a former Sinn Fein National Executive member!

Commenting on the policing decision he said, *"I am faced with a position where I will have to raise the standard for Irish Republicanism in Fermanagh and South Tyrone. Yesterdays vote by the Sinn Fein Ard Fheis to support the PSNI was not surprising. However, it was a classic textbook case of counter insurgency.*

The British have succeeded in imposing a policy of 'divide and rule', with a significant section of the Republican Movement now being recruited into the British Crown system and being used to administer and maintain, British rule!".

'A MODERN DAY UPRISING?'

No question about it, the natives are restless and Sinn Fein's new policy of supporting the PSNI and the word of the law, has well and truly left the dissidents chomping at the bit!

The severity of the situation Sinn Fein now find themselves in however, is graphically reflected in the many death threats issued to Adams and McGuinness almost on a weekly basis.

The threats which emanate from dissident Republicans, are being taken extremely seriously by the PSNI, who have informed the Sinn Fein leadership that their lives are in 'extreme danger!'.

What we are witnessing here, is a modern day 'Republican Uprising'.

Not against the British, but against Republicans, as Sinn Fein / IRA shed their hard-line stance and shift to that of the 'middle of the road' SDLP.

M.C.

Right,

This is the moment when Gerry Adams enraged dissident Republicans, by making a public plea to the Catholics of Northern Ireland to support the P.S.N.I. And the word of the law.

He urged them that should they be the victim of any crime, be it '*rape, death riding, house-breaking or assault*', that they should '*immediately and with full confidence*' inform the local police.

'TREASURED MEMORIES'

Volunteer Denver Smith
Murdered by drug-dealing scum,
1st January 2000.
Will be remembered for all time by the Officers and Volunteers of South Londonderry and Randalstown Battalion,
Ulster Volunteer Force.

Here Lies A Soldier Of The
U.V.F.

The Officers and Members of the Sons Of Ulster Flute Band (Randalstown).
Star And Crown Flute Band (Castledawson).
Steeple Defenders Flute Band (Antrim).
Remember with pride our good friend, Volunteer Denver Smith, Murdered by criminals, 1st January 2000

FOR GOD AND ULSTER

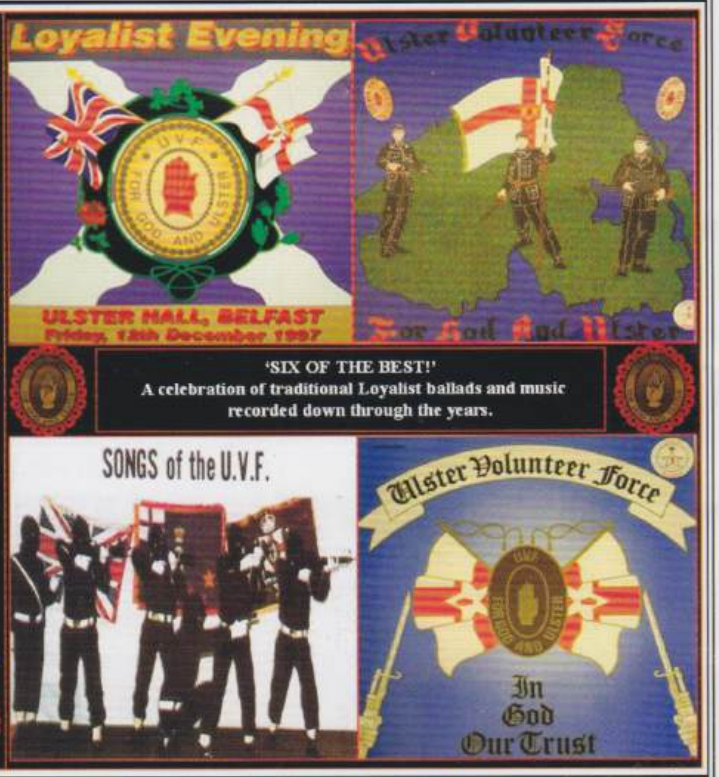
HERE LIES A SOLDIER

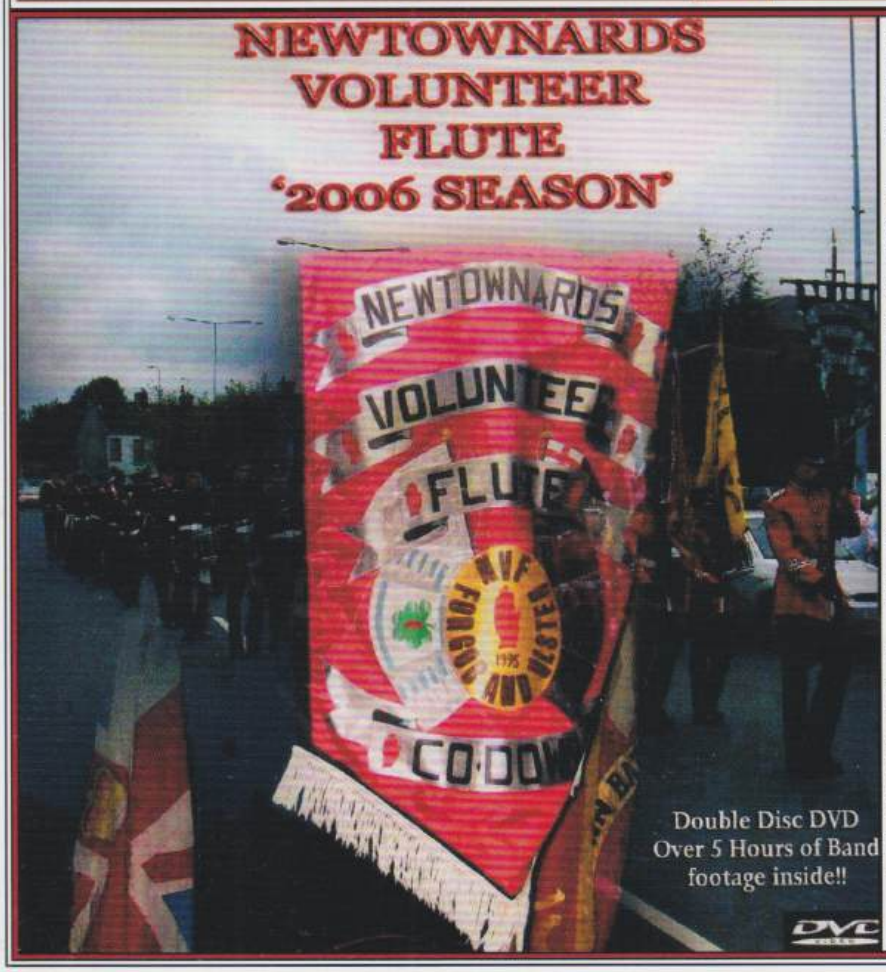
NEW LOYALIST MERCHANDISE FOR SALE

What can we say about 'Six Of The Best', except in the short time since its release at Christmas, it has proved to be one of the most popular Loyalist recordings ever produced by the 'Loyalist Prisoners And Widows Welfare Association!'
The disc features many old favourites, taken from the famous albums that were released in 1974, to the most up to date releases of 2006.
As you can see by the 'running order' shown on the graphics below, the twenty tracks on the disc make compelling listening and will undoubtedly launch this production into 'favourite status' for Loyalists everywhere.
'Six Of The Best' was specifically themed in honour of those who loyally served the Cause of Ulster through the decades in the ranks of the Ulster Volunteer Force and the Young Citizen Volunteers. The disc is priced at £10 and can be obtained via the usual sources in Ulster and our stalls in Scotland (DC). Naturally, the production is subject to the normal copyright clauses.

'FOR GOD AND ULSTER'

90th Anniversary
1912
2002
Celebrating 90 years of service
24th April
1914
MUSIC AND LYRICS BY
The Platoon
The GUN-RUNNERS
1/ UDR Four.
2/ The Three Scottish Soldiers.
3/ Ulster Badge.
4/ Remember The Loyalist Prisoners.
5/ The Chocolate Soldier.
6/ Carson Of The UVF
7/ Private William McFadzean.
8/ Once A Week.
9/ They're Not Coming Home.
10/ Heroes.
11/ A Prisoner's Letter.
12/ Here Lies A Soldier.
13/ UVF Widow.
14/ Gun-Runners.
15/ Dad's Uniform.
16/ Oh Will You Stand.
17/ The Courtroom.
18/ A Loyal Protestant.
19/ YCV Brigade.
20/ The Men Behind The Wire.
This compilation disc is a Loyalist Prisoners And Widows Welfare Association Production.
No part of which, should be reproduced in any shape or form.
The tracks featured, are but a sampling of the many songs and ballads that were recorded throughout the years, in memory of those heroes who fought for Ulster in the ranks of the UVF and YCV, through the Home Rule Crisis, at the Battle Of The Somme and of course, during the latter years of the conflict in our cities, towns and villages.
We will never forget the contribution they made in the name of truth and right.
"Listen to this disc,....enjoy this disc,....but above all....remember our heroes!"
'FOR GOD AND ULSTER'


Loyalist Evening
ULSTER HALL, BELFAST
Friday, 12th December 1997
Ulster Volunteer Force
For God And Ulster
'SIX OF THE BEST!'
A celebration of traditional Loyalist ballads and music recorded down through the years.
SONGS of the U.V.F.
Ulster Volunteer Force
In God Our Trust



The Newtownards Volunteer Flute from North Down, have recently released a new double DVD, featuring over five hours of footage from most of the major parades from the 2006 season.

Featured in its entirety is the parade organised by the Ulster Volunteer Force Memorial Regimental Bands Association in May of 2006, to mark the 90th Anniversary of the Battle Of The Somme.
Also featured in its entirety, is the annual parade organised in East Belfast by the UVF Regimental Band, in memory of fallen friends and Comrades.

Without doubt this production is sure to be a best seller this year and anyone wishing to purchase a copy can do so by contacting any of the listed suppliers of Loyalist merchandise advertised on page 20, or alternatively by contacting the band directly via COMBAT Magazine.

The production is also on sale in Scotland via our very popular 'Loyalist Stalls' (DC).
The stalls can be found at the many regular social events that take place all through the Marching Season. (from mid-February onwards).
The DVD is priced at £10 and without doubt, is well worth the money.....so take a look!

FOR GOD AND ULSTER

Loyalist Prisoners And Widows Welfare Association
Christmas Draw Results

Once again friends, the L.P.W.W.A. Christmas Ballot has proved to be a huge success. It means so much to us that you, our workers and supporters, continually make the effort to sell your ballots and in turn, bring in the much needed funds for the following worthy causes. The support of those true-Loyalists who are still incarcerated throughout the United Kingdom.

The widows and families of our friends and Comrades.

The upkeep of the final resting places of our friends and Comrades.

We offer our congratulations to those of you who won a prize in the Christmas ballot and as ever, we wish those of you who didn't get a prize, better luck in our Summer Draw. In closing, may we extend our sincere thanks to one and all.

Our Cause Is Your Cause!

FOR GOD AND ULSTER

MAIN PRIZES

1st PRIZE ~ £500 ~ C.McC. (Silverstream).
2nd PRIZE ~£300 ~ C.A. Mossview Crescent. C/O DC.
3rd PRIZE ~ £200 ~ BILLY 584, (Coventry).
4th PRIZE ~ £100 ~ K.MacPHEE.
5th PRIZE ~ £50 ~ MAXTON LOL 1688 (C/O Staffy).

£25 CONSOLATION PRIZES

R. McCLATCHEY, C/O Tavern Bar.
W. MAGILL, (Lantra), C/O Johnny.
H. McKINLEY, C/O S. McKinley.
K. MOORE, (Monkstown), C/O Dasher.
E. CAIRNS, C/O Donegall Pass.
B. CARSWELL, C/O London.
A. MOORE, (Tobermore), C/O S. Bell.
M. Paul, C/O Laganside.
GUFF, NMV.
N. WAUGH, C/O Lawnbrook.

THE GAA ~ SINN FEIN ~ IRA
'OURSELVES TOGETHER'

COMBAT has reported on numerous occasions, of the intricate links between Sinn Fein, the IRA and so-called Catholic community 'sporting body', the GAA.

Pictured below, we see more evidence that Sinn Fein, the IRA and the GAA are as one.

In the photo left, we see Gerry Adams making a speech to an assembled gathering of Republicans, in memory of IRA criminals Joe McDonnell and Kieran Doherty. **The event was recently held at St. Teresa's GAA club in Belfast .**

Centre and bottom right, is the newly launched 'GAA / hunger-striker memorial shirt'. The shirt is the product of O'Neills (leading sportswear manufacturer in Ireland). The main graphics on the shirt read **'Long Kesh 81'**.

On each sleeve the flashings depict an **H-Block**, interwoven with **'25 years'**.

This high profile display of support for IRA criminals by O'Neills, should be unreservedly condemned by all right thinking people.

It is a fact that the company is known world-wide as a Catholic / Gaelic orientated business, but why would they risk all, by declaring their hand so publicly and permitting themselves to be involved in such a sickening terrorist scheme?

(all answers on a postcard!....as if we didn't already know!).

Our last picture (top right), shows the recent funeral of South Armagh IRA criminal Gerald Fearon. Fearon was killed when the car in which he was travelling crashed on 27th October 2006.

He was buried in Dromintee on 31st October. His coffin was draped with the Irish Tri-Colour and topped with beret and gloves.

His cortege was flanked by an amalgamated 'guard of honour', comprising of IRA criminals and members of Dromintee GAA club!

The continuing examples of IRA / GAA links, continues to be ever so briefly touched upon, by the media and tabloids.

However, with the exception of COMBAT Magazine, no-one is addressing the vital and serious issues that demand answers!

The GAA's governing body should now be prompted to release a public statement of their intent as far as their undeniable links with Republican terrorism / criminality is concerned.

In other words, they should once and for all drop the charade and declare their hand, instead of squirming behind their age old repetitive rhetoric of 'we are exclusively a sporting body'. You are fooling no-one!

EXPOSE THE G.A.A.

The People's Page

LOYALIST OUTLETS

DRUM SOUNDS ~ SANDY ROW
TELEPHONE ~ 02890 / 242684

THE UNION JACK SHOP
NEWTOWNARDS ROAD
TELEPHONE ~ 02890 / 592909

ULSTER SOUVENIRS
SHANKILL ROAD
TELEPHONE ~ 02890 / 590556

VICTOR STEWART ENTERPRISES
LURGAN
TELEPHONE ~ 02838 / 324070

'POWER TO THE PEOPLE!'

Does anyone remember the classic 1970s sitcom Citizen Smith?
We ask this question as we have unearthed some evidence that might help top 'Shinner' Martin McGuinness, prove to all that he is not a member of the IRA....but a talented actor!
Some have claimed that the picture below shows McGuinness in full IRA uniform, but clearly everyone is mistaken, for it is merely a scene from Citizen Smith's revolutionary organisation 'The Tooting Popular Front!'.

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Members Of Golden Charter For Prepaid Funeral Plans

Inset, 'Citizen Smith' bears an uncanny likeness to the uniformed man standing next to 'Citizen McGuinness!'.

The Scottish Protestant Union

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Lower London Road,
Edinburgh. EH7 5TJ
Tele, 0131 / 444 1120

Stockists of Protestant, Loyalist and Christian literature.

'PARADES LIST'

As of the next issue of COMBAT, we will be publishing a calendar of forthcoming events and parades for the 2007 Season.
Any band that wishes their event to be listed please contact the Editor at the usual address.

Loyalist Bears
Unity IS Strength

www.loyalistbears.co.uk

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www.loyalistfm.co.uk

CALTON RADIO
'LOUD AND PROUD'
***
CATCH US LIVE
ON
www.caltonradio.com

'HANDS ACROSS THE WATER'

To all at the Cross-Keys (Bo Ness).
Thanks to the Management, Staff and patrons for their kindness and hospitality.
***
From Falkirk No Surrender Branch,
Apprentice Boys Of Derry

FOR GOD AND ULSTER

'THE FALLEN AND THE BRAVE'

Due to massive demand and sales success, the Ulster Volunteer Force Regimental Association has authorised a reprint of the recently published Memorial book, 'The Fallen And The Brave'.
This glossy publication is generously priced at £4.00 per copy (plus £1.00 p&p), and can be obtained by contacting the Editor of COMBAT MAGAZINE, 224 Shankill Road, Belfast BT13 2BJ

A WARNING TO RESIDENTS

We have been made aware that several gangs of violent criminals from the Republic of Ireland, have been operating of late, in the Protestant Ballygomartin, Lyndhurst and Westway districts of West Belfast.
These criminals have been intermittently terrorising the local community, breaking into houses, threatening residents with an array of weapons, stealing cars and causing general mayhem. Most of the crimes reported, follow the pattern that they are being committed on Saturday mornings, between the hours of 4am ~ 6am.
We unreservedly urge the local residents to be vigilant at this time, and ensure that vehicles and homes are securely protected from these scum.
We would also call upon the local PSNI to take note of the seriousness of the situation and act accordingly by ensuring that more patrols are made available in the locality.

COMBAT